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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original) An apparatus for protecting data tape cartridges, comprising:

a frame having an interior defined by a front, a rear, a top, a bottom, and a pair of side walls;

a plurality of partitions located in and mounted to the interior of the frame in a parallel configuration, each of the partitions defining a pair of adjacent, parallel slots inside the frame, each of the slots having a top, a bottom, and a pair of side walls adapted to engage and retain a data tape cartridge therein through the front of the frame in order to isolate the data tape cartridges from each other;

a rear opening formed in the rear of the frame adapted to provide simultaneous access to all of the data tape cartridges in the slots and, if desired, for allowing a force to be applied simultaneously to all of the data tape cartridges to push all of the data tape cartridges out of the front of the frame at the same time; and

a plurality of apertures formed in the frame, each of the apertures registering with one of the slots and adapted to provide access to a respective one of the data tape cartridges for inspecting said respective one of the data tape cartridges.

2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the top, the bottom, and the pair of side walls for each of the slots is corrugated.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the top, the bottom, and the pair of side walls of each slot are adapted to frictionally engage a respective one of the data tape cartridges in a snug yet compliant manner.

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rear opening is also formed in the top and the bottom of the frame, such that the rear opening extends from the top of the frame to the bottom of the frame.
5. (original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein each of the partitions has an opening formed in a rear portion thereof that is complementary in shape to the rear opening formed in the rear of the frame.
6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the apertures is an elongated slot extending from the rear of the frame toward the front of the frame.
7. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apertures are formed in one of the side walls of the frame for providing access to a rear portion and a side portion of respective ones of the data tape cartridges.
8. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the frame and the partitions are integrally formed as a single piece of plastic.
9. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a front opening formed in the top and the bottom of the frame and in each of the partitions and adapted to provide simultaneous access to all of the data tape cartridges in the slots and, if desired, for allowing a force to be applied simultaneously to all of the data tape cartridges to push all of the data tape cartridges into the slots toward the rear of the frame at the same time.
10. (original) A system for protecting data tape cartridges from shock and vibration during shipping and for storing the data tape cartridges, the system comprising:

a frame having an interior defined by a front, a rear, a top, a bottom, and a pair of side walls;

a plurality of partitions located in and mounted to the interior of the frame in a parallel configuration, each of the partitions defining a pair of adjacent, parallel slots inside the frame, and each of the slots having a top, a bottom, and a pair of side walls that engage and retain one data tape cartridge therein to isolate the data tape cartridges from each other;

a rear opening formed in the rear of the frame that provides simultaneous access to all of the data tape cartridges in the slots and allows a force to be applied simultaneously to all of the data tape cartridges to push all of the data tape cartridges out of the frame at the same time; and

a plurality of apertures formed in the frame, each of the apertures registering with one of the slots and providing access to a respective one of the data tape cartridges for inspecting said respective one of the data tape cartridges for proper tape leader pin seating.

11. (original) The system of claim 10, wherein the top, the bottom, and the pair of side walls for each of the slots is corrugated.

12. (original) The system of claim 10, wherein the top, the bottom, and the pair of side walls of each slot frictionally engage a respective one of the data tape cartridges with a snug yet compliant fit.

13. (original) The system of claim 10, wherein the rear opening is also formed in the top and the bottom of the frame, such that the rear opening extends from the top of the frame to the bottom of the frame, and wherein each of the partitions has an opening formed in a rear portion thereof that is complementary in shape to the rear opening.

14. (original) The system of claim 10, wherein each of the apertures is an elongated slot extending from the rear of the frame toward the front of the frame and is formed in one of the side walls of the frame to provide access to a rear portion and a side portion of respective ones of the data tape cartridges.

15. (original) The system of claim 10, further comprising a front opening formed in the top and the bottom of the frame and in each of the partitions that provides simultaneous access to all of the data tape cartridges in the slots and allows a force to be applied simultaneously to all of the data tape cartridges to push all of the data tape cartridges into the slots toward the rear of the frame at the same time.